

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64
Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting held at 7:00 p.m.
February 18, 2020
Jefferson School - Multipurpose Room
8200 Greendale Avenue, Niles, Illinois 60714**

Board President Rick Biagi called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Other Board members in attendance were Tom Sotos, Carol Sales, Dr. Denise Pearl, Larry Ryles, Fred Sanchez, and Rebecca Little. Also present were Superintendent Eric Olson; Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Joel T. Martin; Board Legal Counsel Tony Loizzi; and no members of the public.

Board of Education meetings are videotaped and may be viewed in their full length from the District's website at <http://www.d64.org>. The agenda and reports for this meeting are also available on the website or through the District 64 Educational Service Center, 164 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, IL 60068.

BOARD RECESSES AND ADJOURNS TO CLOSED MEETING

At 5:31 p.m. it was moved by Board member Ryles and seconded by Board member Sanchez to adjourn to closed session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors, or specific volunteers of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor, or a volunteer of the District or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with this Act [5ILCS 120/2(c)(1)]; collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)]; and student disciplinary cases [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9)].

The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

BOARD ADJOURNS FROM CLOSED MEETING AND RESUMES THE REGULAR MEETING

The Board resumed the regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. In addition to those listed above, also present were Chief School Business Official Luann Kolstad; Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning Lori Lopez; Director of Student Services Lea Anne Frost; Director of Innovation and Instruction Technology Mary Jane Warden; Public Information Coordinator Peter Gill; and approximately 125 members of the public.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & WELCOME TO JEFFERSON SCHOOL

Jefferson School Principal Lisa Halverson led the pledge and welcomed everyone. She was joined by staff members Barbara Murphy, Joanna Fernandez, and Christy Holtz and provided a presentation about

Jefferson and what the school provides for its young learners. They reviewed the goals for the students' reading, math and social emotional learning skills.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

President Biagi invited comments on non-agenda items; none were received.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

No changes were made to the meeting's agenda.

STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION

Dr. Olson invited the various groups being recognized tonight to come to the podium. Meghan Keefer gave a brief summary of the District Spelling Bee competition and recognized its three finalists; she invited the winner, Ayesha Hakeem, to come to the podium and be congratulated. Dina Pappas, science olympiad coordinator and chair, gave a summary of this year's competition and presented the gold, silver and bronze winners of the various events with certificates. Emerson and Lincoln middle school wrestling coaches reviewed their seasons and achievements and congratulated the athletes present. Dr. Olson noted that Cubs Scouts Pack 50 from Emerson was present tonight to learn about government and earn a civic government badge. Lincoln Middle School Assistant Principal Tim Gleason and Roosevelt School Principal Kevin Dwyer came to the podium to talk about this year's incredibly successful Park Ridge Community Fund Campaign, which the District employees contributed to over the holiday season.

PT3 UPDATE

Student Services Director Frost gave the Board an update on the work accomplished since the beginning of the year and the group's future goals. She was joined by the group's staff representative, Casey Gibbons, and noted that she would read a statement from Andrea Yannella, the parent representative who could not be present tonight. Ms. Gibbons stated the group is having meaningful and productive conversations about current programs and future models, communication improvements, and continuum of services. She said that staff would like to see a model proposal for next year and the chance to hear from other districts. Dr. Frost read the statement from Mrs. Yannella, which shared concerns from parents whose children need some help in certain areas but might not qualify as special needs. These concerns centered around help with reading, dyslexia, and the need for systems to be in place to address these particular needs. Mrs. Yannella's statement also noted the need to move forward quicker, further address outplaced students, and have a clear plan for a model. Following a Board question, Dr. Frost noted that the District is proactively working on training more teachers to be Wilson-certified, and currently has a cohort in place. Board members also discussed their participation at the PT3 meetings and whether to remain observers rather than participants. Dr. Frost stated that the District plans to put together a "hybrid model" to be presented and discussed at the next PT3 meeting, with the goal to have a program in place by the beginning of next school year. Ms. Gibbons confirmed that the priority should be the creation of a model and that the group would like to take a broader look at other districts' models and data. She also stated that obtaining input from the community would be better at the board level.

Board president Biagi invited comments from the audience, which were received as follows:

- Miki Tesija addressed the board on the issue of PT3's work; the need to hear from Dr. Schneider and someone who has been exposed to a well functioning neighborhood school model; board

participation at the PT3 meeting; research that has shown that inclusive models inure to the benefit of all kids; and the future model for the special education program.

The Board and administration discussed the next PT3 update, which should occur at the April or May meeting, per Dr. Olson's response. Board member Pearl will attend the April PT3 meeting.

PRELIMINARY ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS FOR 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR AND DISCUSSION OF 2020-21 STAFFING

Human Resources Assistant Superintendent Joel Martin provided an update about enrollment projections. He noted this was the time of year to look at enrollment projections to help determine staffing needs for next year. He stated the District is predicting an increase of 86 students for the upcoming school year. Carpenter School was expected to see a decrease of one section while Lincoln and Washington Schools would see an increase of one section each. These were the known factors based on current enrollment, not predictions. With regards to projected enrollment, the District partially relies on an independent report prepared by Dr. McKibben last year and Dr. Martin noted the predictions were fairly accurate last year. With those projections in mind, the administration expects an increase of 4.5 sections, spread out between Field, Franklin, and Washington Schools. In addition to those projected increases, the District is also watching 3 potential "bubble" sections at Field (1) and Roosevelt (2). This would bring the potential total section increase to 7.5, but keeping in mind potential drops, the number fluctuates between 6 and 7.5. Dr. Martin explained the administration will ask the Board to authorize hiring 8.5 core teachers, and 4.5 specials' teachers, which would be the maximum needed if all predictions come through. He stressed that the administration will only hire the staff needed once all students are fully enrolled and the final numbers known. Dr. Martin clarified that while there will only be a maximum increase of 7.5 sections, one additional teacher would be needed to cover a current teacher who is resigning and moving out of State. He also stated that the administration is not asking for any additional staff not strictly related to enrollment numbers. He confirmed that there are no space issues at this time at any of the schools. Board member Sanchez noted some concern in the increase in students, which contradicted the McKibben report prediction of a decrease in enrollment in the coming years. CSBO Kolstad noted an increase in enrollment last year after the start of school, but could not say with certainty where the increase and swings in numbers came from. She previously requested McKibben to update the projections. Dr. Olson said that the enrollment numbers, space issues, and planning for full-day kindergarten, are all factors being taken into consideration for the next Master Plan, when all these issues will be addressed. Dr. Martin answered a Board member question to confirm the teacher shortage issue is a concern, especially for specials.

APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDED PERSONNEL REPORT

It was noted that the Board is relying upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and administration in their professional judgment as to the hiring of these individuals per Policy 2:130.

ACTION ITEM 20-02-2

It was moved by Board member Pearl and seconded by Board member Sotos that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the Personnel Report, noting that the Personnel Report is based on the recommendation of the Superintendent and not upon the Board's direct knowledge regarding any of the specific individuals selected for employment.

Adam Tsikretsis - Employ as as Teaching Assistant at Carpenter School effective February 18, 2020
Caitlin Collins - Resign as Special Education Teacher at Field School effective June 10, 2020
Pamela Sammons - Request a second year of leave of absence for personal reasons.

The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Sotos, Little, Ryles, Pearl, Biagi, Sanchez, Sales

NAYS: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried.

UPDATE OF LONG-RANGE FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS

CSBO Kolstad noted that once the CPI-U for the next tax levy is released in mid-January, the administration brings to the Board updated long-term financial projections, including potential additional staff the District will need for the following school year. She stated the 2019 CPI-U is 2.3%, increasing slightly from 1.9% the previous year. The 2019 CPI-U directly impacts funding during the 2020-21 and 2021-22 fiscal years. All labor contracts are set to be renegotiated and have a CPI-U component built into them; the administration factored in a 3% increase, which is the average increase labor contracts saw each year over the last four years. Mrs. Kolstad stated the administration also included the potential additional teachers into the projections. The administration has budgeted future tax levies using a CPI-U of 2.0 percent and new construction has been estimated at \$8.9M for future years. She mentioned that while projections are favorable, the District must remain vigilant in controlling costs so the Board can push off a rate increase referendum further into the future. These projections will be updated when the Board is presented with the tentative budget in June. Responding to a Board question, Mrs. Kolstad stated that a labor contract increase higher than 3% would not be fiscally responsible.

DISCUSSION OF UPCOMING THIRD AMENDMENT TO REGULAR AND SPECIAL EDUCATION TRANSPORTATION SERVICES CONTRACT

Dr. Olson noted that upcoming contracts renewals are not up for approval tonight, but presented to the Board for review and questions. It also gives an opportunity to the public to view the information. Mrs. Kolstad noted that transportation services have been running smoothly, without any special concerns. The district had issues with Lakeview one year, which were resolved. The district is not having as many problems at middle school with students on bus. The administration has a positive assessment of Lakeview Bus Lines and have found them accommodating to particular needs requests as well. Lakeview pays its drivers very well and does not see a large turnover of employees. No other company has approached the District to ask for an opportunity to bid. The Board will need to vote on these contracts at the March meeting to avoid additional costs from trying to find other suppliers in a time crunch.

DISCUSSION OF UPCOMING NATURAL GAS SUPPLIER CONTRACT RENEWAL

Starting in May, the District would go on a month-to-month gas rate if the current contract is not renewed. Long-term contracts are more favorable as they provide better rates. Mrs. Kolstad noted that gas prices are at an all time low due to a mild winter, and the District is awaiting a proposal to see what rates would be

based on different lengths of contract. The Board will then decide the length of the contract in order to get the best rate.

DISCUSSION OF UPCOMING QUEST FOOD MANAGEMENT SERVICES CONTRACT RENEWAL

Mrs. Kolstad informed the Board about the Quest contract renewal. The initial contract for food services required kitchen upgrades, purchase of a truck for delivery of food to the schools, and other investments from the District such as compostable trays at the elementary schools. President Biagi noted complaints from parents about the cost of the food. Mrs. Kolstad stated that the District sets the price of the lunches, not Quest, which is a vendor. She noted the first contract was for three years and recommended a contract renewal with Quest, which would now be year-to-year. She will provide the Board with profit and loss information at the next Board meeting. The Board discussed minor requests for changes in the menu, disclosure of allergens, and ketchup dispensers instead of individual packets. The Board stressed the importance for the public to have an opportunity to review the Quest contract before the Board made a decision.

President Biagi invited comments from the public, which were received as follows:

- Sue Sirvinskas, teacher assistant and Go Green member, and Tracey Edsey, addressed the Board on the issue of composting at the various schools: not all schools are composting or composting correctly. She wants composting to be a part of the contract. She also noted the need to eliminate the use of straws, plastic wrappings, syrup and ketchup packets in favor of dispensers, as well as water bottles.

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Olson noted that policy 2:230 was being removed from the consent agenda for further revisions and will be brought back at the next Board meeting.

- Bills, Payroll and Benefits

Bills

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Fund Total</u>
10 - Education Fund	\$ 1,209,856.76
20 - Operations and Maintenance Fund	\$ 192,351.41
30 - Debt Services	\$ 11,627.55
40 - Transportation Fund	\$ 589,615.68
50 - Retirement (IMRF/SS/MEDICARE)	\$ -
60 - Capital Projects	\$ 116,679.92
61 - Capital Projects-2017 Debt Certificates	\$ -
80 - Tort Immunity Fund	\$ 99.00
90 - Fire Prevention and Safety Fund	\$ -
<u>Total:</u>	<u>\$ 2,120,230.32</u>

Payroll & Benefits

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Fund Total</u>
10 - Education Fund	\$31,953,480.40
20 - Operations and Maintenance Fund	\$ 3,892,542.85
30 - Debt Services Fund	\$ 2,278,471.48
40 - Transportation Fund	\$ 1,797,501.85
50 - IMRF/FICA Fund	\$ 496,248.95
51 - SS/Medicare	\$ 640,030.45
60 - Capital Projects Fund	\$ 6,782,388.86
80 - Tort Immunity Fund	\$ 496,482.68
	<u>Total: \$48,337,147.52</u>

The Accounts Payable detailed list can be viewed on the District 64 website's business services page at www.d64.org.

- Approval of Financial Update for the Period Ending January 31, 2020
- Second Reading and Approval of Policies from PRESS Issue 102 and Policy 7:30
- Destruction of Audio Closed Recordings: January 9, 2014; January 10, 2014; January 15, 2014; January 24, 2014; January 28, 2014; February 10, 2014; February 24, 2014; March 18, 2014; March 24, 2014; April 14, 2014; April 28, 2014; May 19, 2014; June 9, 2014; and June 23, 2014.

ACTION ITEM 20-02-3

It was moved by Board member Sotos and seconded by Board member Sanchez that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the Consent Agenda for February 18, 2020 which includes: Bills, Payroll and Benefits; Approval of Financial Update for Period Ending January 31, 2020; Second Reading and Approval of Policies from PRESS Issue 102 and Policy 7:30; and Destruction of Audio Closed Recordings.

The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Pearl, Sotos, Biagi, Sales, Little, Sanchez, Ryles

NAYS: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Prior to making a motion, the Board noted a change to reflect that Board member Sanchez' vote should be reflected as "present" and not "absent" for the January 27, 2020 meeting.

ACTION ITEM 20-02-4

It was moved by Board member Sanchez and seconded by Board member Pearl that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the minutes from the Closed Session on January 27, 2020; the Regular Meeting on January 27, 2020 **as amended**; and the Special Meeting on February 4, 2020.

The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Biagi, Pearl, Sotos, Sales, Little, Sanchez

NAYS: None

PRESENT: Ryles

ABSENT: None

The motion carried.

OTHER DISCUSSION AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION

Dr. Olson noted the upcoming agenda for the next Board meeting on March 16, 2020. CSBO Kolstad gave a brief summary of the unpaid student fees for this year, which are higher. Part of the reason is the timing of when Transworld starts to collect. In addition, more people have chosen to do payment plans, and the district is taking into account those who have requested fee waivers. She confirmed that the District is actively working on collecting unpaid fees.

NEW BUSINESS

CSBO Kolstad gave an update on a Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) grant, which the District did not qualify for because there is no active ongoing flooding at Lincoln Middle School. The District had hoped to receive the money to address the parking lot remodel. President Biagi asked the District to look further into the matter, noting the City had received a grant to address similar issues with the Park Ridge Public Library parking lot. Attorney Loizzi stated that Mrs. Kolstad should reach out to Jim Levy about grant issues.

Board member Little stated she had received questions regarding full day Kindergarten. Dr. Olson explained the District will disseminate a survey in March about the next strategic plan, which will include this issue, but he will also address the matter in committee in the fall. The District hopes to have a program in place for the next school year. President Biagi stated that the Board needs to have a conversation about a referendum question.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:39 p.m. it was moved by Board member Sotos and seconded by Board member Little to adjourn, which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Signed Date: March 30, 2020.

President

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Secretary